

The following claims are presented in this application:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) A process for the production of an alkaline glasses with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass, wherein said alkaline glass has a surface defined by a glass surface area; and

contacting said surface of said alkaline glass with a contacting volume of an aluminum-chloride compound in a vapor phase, wherein sodium aluminosilicates are formed near said glass surface area of said alkaline glass

~~bringing the surface of said glasses into contact with elevated levels of aluminum concentration; and~~

~~subjecting the surface of said glasses to a heat treatment.~~

Claims 3-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the surface of said glasses is brought into contact with aluminum chloride compounds ~~from the~~ in said vapor phase for a treatment time between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The process of claim [[6]] 2, wherein the aluminum chloride compounds used ~~correspond to~~ is an amount of at least 0.1 g/m³ of said contacting volume, and wherein the a lower sample temperature of the glass surface is limited by the temperature change resistance of the glass and ~~the~~ an upper sample temperature of the glass surface is up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The process of claim [[6]] 2, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is between ~~the~~ a sublimation temperature of 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The process of claim [[6]] 2, wherein the process is used in tube glass production and said gaseous vapor phase aluminum chloride compound is urged through a tube similarly to the air in the Vello or Danner process to provide an inner blowing pressure.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A process for modifying the surface of an alkaline glass comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass, wherein said alkaline glass has a surface defined by a glass surface area;

contacting said surface of said alkaline glass with a contacting volume of an aluminum-chloride bearing vapor, wherein sodium aluminosilicates are formed near said glass surface area; and

heating said surface of said alkaline glass with a heat treatment

~~bringing the surface of the alkaline glass into contact with an aluminum compound in solution or vapor form; and~~

~~subjecting the surface of the glass to a heat treatment.~~

Claims 11-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) The process of claim 10, wherein the surface of the alkaline glass is brought into contact contacted with an aluminum chloride vapor of said aluminum-chloride bearing vapor for a treatment time between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The process of claim 14, wherein the application of the aluminum compound of said aluminum-chloride bearing vapor on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m³ of said contacting volume.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The process of claim 15, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is aluminum-chloride bearing vapor is heated to a temperature between 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 17 (new) A process for the treating an alkaline glass container, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an alkaline glass container, wherein said container has a surface defined by a glass surface area; and

contacting said surface of said container with a contacting volume of an aluminum-chloride compound in a vapor phase, wherein sodium aluminosilicates are formed near said glass surface area of said container.

Claim 18 (new) The process of claim 17, wherein formation of sodium aluminosilicates provides a resistance to thermally induced reverse sodium diffusion within said glass surface area of said container.

Claim 19 (new) The process of claim 18, wherein said glass surface area has an aluminum-modified structure and the sodium is bound to said aluminum-modified structure.

Claim 20 (new) The process of claim 2, wherein formation of sodium aluminosilicates provides a resistance to thermally induced reverse sodium diffusion within said glass surface area of said alkaline glass.

Claim 21 (new) The process of claim 10, wherein formation of sodium aluminosilicates provides a resistance to thermally induced reverse sodium diffusion within said glass surface area of said alkaline glass.

Claim 22 (new) The process of claim 2, wherein said glass surface area has an aluminum-modified structure and said sodium is bound to said aluminum-modified structure.

Claim 23 (new) The process of claim 10, wherein said glass surface area has an aluminum-modified structure and said sodium is bound to said aluminum-modified structure.